

What is claims is:

1           1.    A method for presenting information about  
2   attendance at a gathering place, comprising:  
3                imaging at least two scenes of a space to produce  
4   first and second images;  
5                calculating from a result of said imaging at  
6   least one of a number of persons in said scenes and a value  
7   dependent thereon;  
8                generating an output indicating said at least one  
9   of a number of persons in said scenes and a value dependent  
10   thereon.

1           2.    A method as in claim 1, wherein said output  
2   includes a display showing a map of said gathering place.

1           3.    A method as in claim 2, wherein said map  
2   display is overlaid with a graphic indication of a result  
3   of said step of calculating.

1           4.    A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of  
2   generating includes generating an output at an exhibition-  
3   like event for use by visitors thereof.

1           5.    A visitor information system, comprising:  
2                a controller with an input adapted to receive  
3   video data responsive to multiple scenes of visitors of an

exhibition-like event, each scene being of a different  
 respective physical location of said exhibition-like event;  
 said controller being programmed to generate an  
 output on a display indicating a current density of  
 occupancy of said space responsively to said video data;  
 said display being located at an exhibition-like  
 event for use by visitors thereof.

6. A system as in claim 5, wherein said output  
 includes a map display with an overlay indicating a density  
 or relative density of said visitors at said different  
 respective physical locations.

7. A system as in claim 5, wherein said output  
 includes a text or audio message indicating a recommended  
 one of said respective physical locations.

8. A system as in claim 7, wherein said  
 controller is further programmed to accept an input  
 indicating a preference relating to density of visitors at  
 a location.

9. A system as in claim 5, further comprising a  
 pan-tilt-zoom (PTZ) video camera, said video data being  
 derived from said PTZ video camera, said controller being  
 programmed to operate said PTZ video camera.

1           10. A system as in claim 5, wherein said output  
2 is a wireless signal readable by a portable terminal.

1           11. A method of providing guidance to visitors  
2 of a space, comprising the steps of:

3           receiving input at a controller providing real-  
4 time data responsive to a density of visitors at various  
5 locations in a space;

6           calculating at said controller a local variation  
7 in density or movement of visitors at various locations in  
8 said space;

9           outputting at a terminal, accessible to visitors  
10 to said space, data indicating said local variation in  
11 density or movement of said visitors, whereby visitors to  
12 said space may obtain information permitting them to choose  
13 among said various locations.

1           12. A method as in claim 11, wherein step of  
2 outputting includes generating a map of said space overlaid  
3 with a graphic representation of said local variation.

1           13. A method as in claim 11, wherein said step  
2 of outputting includes generating a wireless signal  
3 containing a result of said step of calculating.

1                   15. A method as in claim 11, wherein said step  
2 of calculating includes updating a background image and  
3 subtracting said background image from a current video  
4 image.